



Foreign Students, Peas Hill, 1988 170.95

Cambridge LANGUAGE SCHOOLS Chronicle, by Mike Petty

c.36.52: Language Schools & Foreign Students

This is a section from A Cambridge 1888-1988 Chronicle

1910

1914 08 07

Foreign students leave

1920

1922 08 05

The Summer Meeting is proving a gratifying success, and is in every way the best that has been held since that memorable meeting of 1914 when the war caught both the students and the Syndics unaware, and there was great trouble in repatriating some of the foreigners who had come to Cambridge for the meeting. This year once again there is a good sprinkling of foreign students, who seem to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. The students, too, include a number of working men from the North, who have been most regular and attentive at the lectures on Control in Industry, but a trifle dogmatic in the discussion

1930

1934 11 07

The All People's Association Cambridge clubhouse was opened by the Vice Chancellor. One of the chief functions of a university was to attract people of all kinds and nations. There were a large number of foreign students here for short periods and colleges made the position rather difficult for a young man brought up in a different tradition. The A.P.A. was doing good work by taking a special

interest in the short-term student. The world had gone mad: it was depressing to find principles of liberty of speech and the freedom of the press going by the board. The next 20 years were going to be the most vital in the history of humanity and we must make a serious attempt to understand the other fellow's point of view. 34 11 07 & a

1950

1952

Davies school opened, moved Bateman Street 1958 so oldest of kind in city [NS.1.12]

1952 08 17

Boom in teaching English to foreigners; were 30 foreign students outside University; this summer more than 1,000 in local language schools, some of which taken over colleges for Long Vacation; fees £2.10.0 week [1.1]

1955 10 01

The Bell School of Languages in Cranmer Road, Cambridge was opened by the Chancellor of Cambridge University, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder. This term 50 men and women from 22 countries including Germany, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia and Finland are studying there. The Principal, Mr Bell, said the aim was not only to teach the way we say things but the way we do them and warned students not to be 'a little colony of foreigners in England' 55 10 01 & a

1957

"Our foreign students are bored to tears" [2.4]

1958 02 27

There are more foreigners in Cambridge than ever before who were often here for months without getting to know any English people. There used to be an international clubhouse part of which was divided into flats to help finance it but the present premises in Falcon Yard were inadequate. A group of foreign students had formed the Overseas Club which had a membership of 400 with a meal service, newspaper, dramatic society and travel bureau. 58 02 27

1958 08 08

The Bell School of Languages held a garden party in the spacious grounds of their newly-acquired premises in Red Cross Lane, the former St Anne's House. Three hundred guests attended the 'house-warming', giving them the opportunity to celebrate the move to the splendid building in large and lovely grounds. It was the first social occasion at the new premises hosted by the Principal, F.E. Bell and the eighty students. 58 08 08

1959 02 28

One of the developments in the field of education since the war has been the growth in Cambridge of schools of English for foreign students. Now Mr C.H. Jarrett is establishing a new one at Salisbury Villas, Station Road. It will cater for the Cambridge Lower and proficiency Certificates as well as offering courses for beginners and the teaching of Russian. My own observations of some of the foreign students in our midst leads me to hope further courses may include the rudiments of good manners! 59 02 28b

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960 06 28

The newly-opened Cambridge International Centre is a place where foreign visitors irrespective of race, colour or nationality may meet to further friendship and understanding. It has a lounge, library and restaurant serving inexpensive snacks. It is hoped some 300 people will use it daily for talking,

drinking, coffee or reading. Activities include record recitals, illustrated talks, dances and lectures together with organised outings to places of interest 60 06 28

1960 10 22

The British Council's new International Centre in Trinity Street is a club formed to promote international friendship and understanding by providing a social and cultural centre for foreign residents in Cambridge and their English friends. 60 10 22

1961 04 28

Ruth Mellanby, hospitality secretary for language school – 61 04 28d

1963

Union International Social Club for foreign students founded at Union Society during vacation [369.27.15]

1964 03 03

Overseas students are charged ridiculously high rents for inadequate accommodation and food but are prevented from leaving lodgings as they have to pay a term's rent in advance. Landladies are cashing-in on the name of the University, a student claims. But landladies not only spend time washing and cooking but also talk to students and virtually give them English lessons. However there will always be the greedy ones and there will always be the mugs who are willing to pay 64 03 03

1965 01 18

Cambridge's welcome to foreign students – about 1,000 full time– major feature – 65 01 18

1966 03 14

Cambridge International Centre to close at end of summer; was formed seven years ago by Frank Bell and intended for promotion of international friendship and understanding – 66 03 14b

1966 10 18

Cambridge International Centre reopens YMCA Alexandra Street [Misc.2.4]

1967 07 13

Cambridge International Centre moves Regent St 1967 [Misc.2.4]

1970

1973 01 16

Dale's old brewery in Gwydir Street, Cambridge, officially became the home of the new International Centre when it was declared open last night - but for the time being it will remain "dry" for it does not have a licence. Instead, the cavernous rooms of the old brewery, which once echoed to the clatter of horses' hooves and the rattle of casks now hear the merry pop of Coca Cola cans and the chatter of many tongues as foreign students find themselves somewhere to gather for the first time in six years. The director of the new centre, Sudhir Agarwala, has established and financed the new International Centre from his own pocket

1974 05 18

Cambridge Integration Centre Club Gwydir St, applies licence in last desperate financial throw to make it viable [Misc.2.4]

1976 06 19

Cambridge's newest language school, the Newnham Language Centre, was officially opened at a reception. It is the brainchild of Mr Michael Short who was adult tutor at Comberton village college for ten years. Students pay £70 for a four-week vacation course or £165 for a ten-week term and stay

with Cambridge families. Tours to colleges and local country houses are arranged. It aims to provide facilities for small groups to learn the language in really attractive surroundings 76 06 19

1978 06 01

Frank Bell has stood down as director of the Bell School of Languages in Cambridge and called for tighter controls over foreign language teaching. "There are some cowboys who simply open during the summer in any old hall they can", he said. When he started in 1953 most of the students were simply finishing off part of their private education. Now the majority have a professional interest in learning the language and are financed by their firms or governments. He envisages an even greater boom and the Bell School, at present attended by Princess Marie Astrid, seems certain to expand and adapt to a changing role. 78 06 01

1979 02 27

Controversy surrounds plans to pull down seven large Victorian houses in Bateman Street and build a modern language school. The properties are 'bed-sit' houses used for student accommodation and too large to be used as family homes; they are not particularly distinguished houses and do not justify sentimentality. Residents have petitioned against the scheme but it is now more a barracks than a street, only 11 of the present residents lived there three years ago. The new school would give better facilities to foreign students planning to become bank clerks or hotel receptionists who pay fees of £19 a week

1980

1980 11 12

Two Cambridge language schools are up for sale. The New School of English, founded by John Barnes in 1962, is being sold because of his imminent retirement and the Jarrett school, one of the city's oldest, is also seeking a purchaser. Neither say Iranian crisis which is severely restricting the number of students has been a contributory factor 80 11 12b

1981 12 02

Cambridge International Centre Club closed [Misc.2.4]

1982 08 09

Cambridge planners say no more permanent language schools or secretarial and tutorial colleges should be permitted unless they are specifically for city residents. In the last ten years the number has trebled from 19 to 57 and the number of students has doubled to 15,000. Although they bring in about £13 million each year, are a major industry and create jobs they frequently irritate city residents 82 08 09

1983 08 26

Many foreign language students do not respect road safety, says a Cambridge Cycle Hire operator. It is a free-for all aboard and they are not going to change here, any amount of teaching and talking is a waste of time. But Swedes were very safety-conscious and had complained about the bad state of driving in England; locals ought to put their own house in order before they criticised foreign cyclists. 83 08 26 p13

1984 05 01

The annual summer influx of foreign students into Cambridge is only just beginning. More than 15,000 came in 1981, outnumbering University students by almost 3,000. They had an estimated expenditure of £13 million and families offering lodgings benefited most from student revenue. But there were problems of overcrowding of public amenities and traffic congestion. Foreign students think England is a pit socially. The young people have nothing to do in the evenings. Many are too shy to go into pubs or strike up conversations with strangers. International clubs leave much to be desired: people sat round making boring conversations about the weather 84 05 01 p13

1984 12 19

Devi Agarwala was penniless when he first moved to England in 1950 but became one of Cambridge's best-known business men. He opened the city's first Indian restaurant, the Kismet in Northampton Street, and the Harlequin club and casino in Regent Street as well as an International Centre and language school. He was a member of the Pentacle Magic Club and organised a three-day All-India Magic Conference which had to be cancelled due to the murder of India's Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Ghandi. 84 12 19

1985 03 16

Cambridge Eurocentre a £2 million purpose built language school in Bateman Street was designed by local architect David Thurlow and can accommodate up to 225 pupils in octagonal classrooms. It is one of six English language schools run by the Swiss-based foundation for European languages in Britain and has young people from 17 nations. At its official opening Sir John Butterfield, vice-chancellor of the University, hailed it as "a foundation for peace in the future" 85 03 16

1987 12 28

Language schools charge high prices for bed & breakfast accommodation but pay landladies far less – 87 12 28b

1989 07 18

Frank Bell, who founded the prestigious Bell School of Languages started his interest in teaching languages when he was a prisoner of war during WWII. After the war he worked at the University Board of Extra Mural Studies before founding his own language school in 1955. Later he set up the Bell Educational Trust with schools in Norwich, Bath and London. He was awarded an OBE in 1975 89 07 18a